

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, and 6-37 are pending, with claims 1, 15, and 25 being independent. Claim 5 has been canceled, and claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 15, 17, 24, 25, 27, and 35 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendments.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for the telephonic interview conducted with the Applicant's representative, Babak Akhlaghi, on November 28, 2006. During the interview, the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,662,230 ("Eichstaedt") was discussed. Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for indicating that claim 1 would be allowable if Applicant amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5. In addition and for purposes of clarity and consistency with the allowed feature, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "access providers" instead of "multiple access providers." Applicant submits that this is not a broadening amendment because "access providers" is plural, and, as such, includes "multiple access providers."

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 1 along with its dependent claims. Claims 15 and 25 have been amended to recite features similar to that of amended claim 1, in the context of a system. Thus, claims 15 and 25, along with their dependent claims, are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons described above with respect to claim 1.

Again, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for her kind attention regarding this matter.

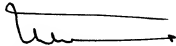
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Respectfully submitted,

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